

Sheathbills were observed along with the birds already mentioned. Finally, it was noted at sea to the southward of the Orkneys on March 21st in about 61° S.—its furthest south.

In the Liverpool Museum (Bull. Liverpool Mus. ii. p. 48) there is a specimen of this bird which is said to have been shot on the Antarctic Continent in 78° S. by Dr. Gunn, who, strange to say, was afterwards proved never to have been there! (see 'Ibis,' 1895, p. 165, and 'Antarctic Manual,' p. 234, footnote).

XVI.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

[Continued from p. 214.]

26. *Angelini on a new Synallaxine Bird.*

[*Aphrastura fulva*, nuova specie di Passeraceo appartenente ai Dendrocolaptidi Synallaxini. Prof. Giovanni Angelini. Boll. Soc. Zool. Ital. (2) vi. p. 227 (1905).]

Aphrastura fulva is based upon two specimens obtained at Aneud, in Chile, in 1884, now in the Zoological Museum of the University of Rome. It is apparently nearly allied to *A. spinicauda*. *Aphrastura* is a new name for *Oxyurus*, proposed by Oberholser (*cf.* Sharpe, Hand-l. iii. p. 51).

27. 'The Avicultural Magazine.'

[Avicultural Magazine. The Journal of the Avicultural Society. New Series. Vol. v. Nos. 2-4. London: December 1906 to February 1907.]

In these three numbers of the 'Avicultural Magazine' we once more find items of considerable interest. Several species are recorded as having bred in captivity for the first time in Britain, among them the Pine-Grosbeak, the Jackal-Buzzard, and the White-eared Conure. They are reported by Mr. W. H. St. Quintin, Mr. J. H. Gurney, and Mr. E. J. Brook respectively. Mrs. Johnstone has also successfully reared a young specimen of Fraser's Touraco; and it is needless to say that in all these cases we find valuable details given in respect to plumage, habits, and so forth.

Mr. H. D. Astley's paper on Lear's Macaw, and Mr. D. Seth-Smith's on the plumed Doves are each accompanied by a coloured plate, in the latter case of *Lophophaps leucogaster*; while that of Mr. Meade-Waldo on the Cruise of the 'Valhalla' has an illustration of Jackass-Penguins and the young Sacred Ibis. Several other articles, with the usual notes, reviews, and correspondence, give evidence of the lively interest taken by many persons in the Magazine and its contents.

28. *Bonhote on Coloration in Mammals and Birds.*

[The Coloration in Mammals and Birds. By J. Lewis Bonhote. Knowledge, vol. iii. 1905 6, pp. 293-294, 316-317, 343, 372-373, 402-404.]

In 'The Ibis' for 1905 (p. 271) we noticed a paper by Mr. Bonhote on the Coloration of Animals, and we are now able to grasp his conceptions more completely from the fuller elaboration of his theories which lies before us. He contends, as before, that coloration is due to physiological causes, and that in a high state of vigour we find a corresponding increase in pigmentation. Vigour itself is affected by two causes: (1) climate, including temperature and food-supply; (2) the rise and fall of sexual activity—the latter being the only factor practically worth consideration in tropical districts. Lack of colour would thus imply impaired vigour, and, in the case of the Polar Regions, only those animals which are able to retain full vigour would assume darker tints. The conditions of the Tropical Regions, on the other hand, lend themselves to a high state of vigour, and colours would be most pronounced there and less liable to change. Centres of bleaching, or "pœcilomeres," are generally to be found, but are, for the most part, only noticeable during the growth of a new coat.

29. *Cooke on American Anatidæ.*

[Distribution and Migration of North-American Ducks, Geese, and Swans. By Wells W. Cooke. U.S. Dept. of Agricult., Biol. Survey, Bull. 26. Washington, 1906. 90 pp.]

The title of this pamphlet tells its own story, and we need

only say that, antecedently to the accounts of the several species, Mr. Cooke discusses the family under the heads of Protection, Decrease, Range, Migration, and Distribution within various areas.

30. Dresser on Palæarctic Birds' Eggs.

[Eggs of the Birds of Europe, including all the Species inhabiting the Western Palæarctic Area. By H. E. Dresser. Parts V., VI. London: November 1906. Price 10s. 6d. net per Part.]

These two parts deal with the families Falconidæ (conclusion), Turdidæ, and Cinclidæ, as well as the genera *Scotocerca*, *Argya*, and *Accentor*. The Booted Eagle is restored to the genus *Aquila*, and for Bonelli's Eagle the title *Eutolmaëtus* is adopted in place of *Nisaëtus* of Hodgson. Mr. Dresser refuses to acknowledge the supposed new Red-wing from Iceland (*Turdus coburni*), while on p. 188 we have his ideas of the different forms included under *Cinclus*. Difficult questions of nomenclature are dealt with in the genus *Saxicola*, and careful descriptions are given throughout of the breeding-habits, nests, and eggs of the various forms. The author omits, however, to mention the characteristic use of the wood-rush (*Lucula maxima*) in the lining of the Golden Eagle's nest—at least in Scotland,—and credits the Mistletoe-Thrush with a somewhat too exclusive love of "gardens, parks, and groves," while the statement that the Whinchat breeds in Shetland cannot be at present accepted. The eggs figured are those of *Aquila heliaca*, *A. adalberti*, *A. rapax*, *A. chrysaëtus*, *A. pomarina*, *A. maculata*, *A. pennata*, *A. nipalensis*, *Eutolmaëtus fasciatus*, *Circaëtus gallicus*, *Falco cherruy*, *F. feldeggi*, various species of the genera *Turdus*, *Monticola*, *Cinclus*, *Saxicola*, *Pratincola*, *Scotocerca*, *Argya*, and *Accentor*. The figures of the larger eggs stand out well and clearly, but some might with advantage have been taken from finer specimens; those of the smaller eggs are at times too dull; yet, as a whole, they are excellent.

31. *Hall's 'Key to the Birds of Australia.'*

[A Key to the Birds of Australia, with their Geographical Distribution. By Robert Hall, F.L.S., C.M.Z.S. Second Edition. Melbourne and London (R. H. Porter), 1906.]

Mr. Hall's second edition of his 'Key to the Birds of Australia' is, in fact, a reprint of his first edition (see 'The Ibis,' 1900, p. 385), with additional information and pictures intercalated between the pages of the original. The pictures are reduced copies of the plates in Gould's 'Birds of Australia.' The mode of introducing the new matter seems to us to be rather awkward, as the new pages are left unnumbered, so that it is difficult to refer to them. Nevertheless the author has produced a useful handbook containing a great deal of information in a small compass. A list of Australian "species and subspecies recently described as new" is appended to the old text, and helps to bring the work "up to date." It gives us the titles of 49 species, which, added to those mentioned in the first edition, would bring the total number of Australian species now recognised up to about 816. From these, however, should be deducted the so-called "Spotted Emeu (*Dromæus irroratus*)," which has been recently shown to be merely a slight variety of *D. novæ-hollandiæ* and not even a local form.

32. *Hartert on Birds from North-west Australia.*

[Additional Notes on Birds from N.W. Australia. By Ernst Hartert, Ph.D. Nov. Zool. xiii. p. 754.]

These notes are supplementary to Dr. Hartert's paper in 'Novitates Zoologicæ,' vol. xii. p. 194, on the birds collected by Mr. Tunney in N.W. Australia and Arnhem Land (see 'Ibis,' 1905, p. 276). They relate to *Ametrornis woodwardi*, *Colluricincla woodwardi*, and *Gymnorhina tibicen longirostris*. The two former are figured.

33. *Hartert on some Philippine Birds.*

[Notes on Birds from the Philippine Islands. By Ernst Hartert, Ph.D. Nov. Zool. xiii. p. 755.]

These notes relate to specimens in the Tring Museum

collected by Doherty, Goodfellow, and Waterstradt. *Loriculus philippensis dohertyi* is a new subspecies from Basilan. *Rhipidura nigro-cinnamomea* and the very remarkable Starling *Goodfellowia miranda* from Mt. Apo are well figured by Keulemans.

34. *Harvie-Brown on the Tay Area.*

[A Vertebrate Fauna of Scotland. Tay Basin and Strathmore. By J. A. Harvie-Brown. Edinburgh: David Douglas, 1906. Sm. 4to. Pp. i-lxxxvi, 1-377; 29 illustr., 5 maps.]

Each successive volume of the 'Vertebrate Fauna of Scotland' series brings us nearer to its conclusion, and the present contribution, which treats of the Tay Basin and Strathmore, leads us as far to the southward as the boundaries of "Clyde" and "Forth." Various as are the aspects and manifold as are the interests of the more northerly districts which formed the subjects of previous volumes, the "Tay" area, which includes a great part of the counties of Perth, Forfar, Kincardine, and Fife, yields to none of them in the diversity of its attractions. The massive southern spurs of the Grampian Range, the Breadalbane Mountains, and the Clova Hills not only provide lovely scenery and splendid botanizing ground to many a traveller and naturalist, but also afford admirable breeding-sites for certain of our rarer birds, while these heights with their innumerable glens, the valley of the Tay itself, the famous moors, and the flatter parts of the country to the southward, ensure the presence of an exceptionally varied fauna.

Mr. Harvie-Brown begins with a brief revision of the work already accomplished in the series, while a sketch of the history of the Perthshire Society of Natural History is given by Mr. H. Coates, its President for 1905. Following upon these comes the general description of the coast-line, islands, watersheds, valleys, moors, and lochs, with dissertations on the faunal position of the area and its climate. Special sections on Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, and Amphibians bulk largely, as usual, in the text, but Fishes find no place in this volume. Two appendices treat respectively of the

Wild Birds Preservation Act, Scotland, and of additional notes. The 21 full-page illustrations include portraits of well-known Perthshire naturalists and other local celebrities, views of scenery, and so forth; we should almost have preferred a greater proportion of the latter. Five maps shew the occurrences of the Little Auk, the dispersal of the Starling and Tufted Duck, the Tents Muir and Barry districts, and the entire "Tay" area.

No one could be better fitted to write this volume than Mr. Harvie-Brown, who, living almost within the district, has worked at its fauna since 1860; his wide information has enabled him to treat with his customary skill and knowledge the fauna of each separate district, while many willing helpers have materially lightened his task. We must, however, take him to task with regard to the following slips of the pen:—

- (1) The whole of the information under the heading of "Ortolan Bunting" belongs to "Cirl Bunting" and has been misplaced; while "Henderson of Dundee" therein should be "Henderson of Dunrossness, Shetland." His record therefore refers to the Shetland Fauna.
- (2) The square brackets have been accidentally omitted from the articles on the "Ruddy Sheldrake" and "Red-legged Partridge."
- (3) The Little Stint is entirely omitted from the list of species (p. 319), though it is not uncommon at times on certain parts of the coast.

On the other hand, the breeding of the Grey Lag Goose in a wild state within the Tay area and the supposed occurrence of the Marsh-Warbler are wisely omitted for the present.

35. '*Hastings and East Sussex Naturalist.*'

[The Hastings and East Sussex Naturalist, being the Journal of the Hastings and St. Leonards Natural History Society. Vol. i. No. 1. Hastings: Burfield & Pennells. November 1906. Price 1s.]

We congratulate the above-named Society on the issue

of the first part of their Journal, which we are sure, from our knowledge of the keen interest taken by the men of Hastings and the district in Natural Science, will be both interesting and successful. The position of Sussex is such that rare species from the Continent frequently visit its shores, while it is also well situated for observations on migration. Evidence of this is given in the present part by the article of Dr. N. Ticehurst on the Yellow Wagtails and the breeding in Sussex of *Motacilla flava* in particular, and that of Mr. Butterfield on British Birds obtained in the county, while the President, Mr. Parkin, contributes an interesting paper on Extinct Birds, with plates of the Dodo.

36. *Headley on Evolution.*

[Life and Evolution. By F. W. Headley. London: Duckworth & Co., 1906. 8vo. Pp. i-xvi, 1-272.]

We are sorry that the subject of Mr. Headley's book precludes us from giving a full notice of its contents, for in less than three hundred pages he gives an admirable exposition of the main facts of animal and plant life in a manner that is at once popular and scientific. The school-boys at Haileybury, for whom the lectures were originally written, are indeed fortunate in a master who so well understands their needs, but the book may be strongly recommended also to grown-up naturalists. Two chapters are devoted to Birds, in one of which the author traces, with the aid of many useful illustrations, the wonderful development of Reptile into Bird, and supplements his story with details of structure and notes on coloration, the senses, the breathing-powers, the temperature, and the powers of locomotion. In the following chapter the Flight of Birds is considered at length, with still further wealth of illustration, including figures and diagrams of the course of flight of birds, kites, and so forth, not to mention a toy flying-machine of the writer's own construction and a flying windmill. Very lucid explanations are given of the facts that enable a bird to fly, poise, soar, glide, rise, alight, and steer.

37. *Hole on the Birds of the Zambesi Valley.*

[Some interesting Birds of the Zambesi Valley. By H. Marshall Hole. Proc. Rhodesia Sc. Assoc. vol. v. part iii. p. 99 (Bulawayo, 1905).]

We are much pleased to learn from this paper that there is an ornithologist engaged in the study of the Avifauna of the district between the Victoria Falls and the Barotse Valley, which, we are told, is "the abode of countless birds, many beautiful, and some, until lately, unknown to science."

Mr. Hole's principal field-notes relate to the splendid Crimson-throated Bee-eater (*Merops nubicoides*), the Ground-Hornbill (*Bucorax cafer*), and the Marabou (*Leptoptilus crumenifer*), but other birds are mentioned. He should look out for the newly-discovered Love-bird of this district, *Agapornis nigrigenis* (see W. L. Sclater, Bull. B. O. C. xvi. p. 61).

38. *Journal of the South African Ornithologists' Union.*

[The Journal of the South African Ornithologists' Union. Vol. ii. No. 2. December 1906. Pretoria, Transvaal.]

We have now received the second part of the second volume of this Journal, and are glad to find that the South African Ornithologists' Union is making steady progress. The part commences with a report of the Third Annual Meeting of the Union, which took place in the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria, on the 25th of August, 1906, with Dr. J. W. B. Gunning, V.P., in the Chair. After the formal business of the meeting had been transacted, the Chairman gave an address on recent additions to the Museum, and other matters relating to South African Ornithology. The oological collection had been much enriched by the acquisition of the fine series belonging to Mr. Ivy, of Grahamstown. While highly praising Stark and Sclater's recently finished work on the birds of South Africa, the Chairman pointed out a defect which existed in the absence of the dates on which each species had been found in special localities, and sketched out a plan by which he thought the desired information

might be obtained. Mr. J. A. S. Bucknill was elected President and Mr. A. K. Haagner Hon. Secretary for the ensuing year; and Messrs. Bucknill, Gunning, and Haagner were appointed as the Publication Committee for 1907, 1908, and 1909.

The two principal papers in this number of the Journal are an account by Mr. L. E. Taylor of the birds met with in the vicinity of Irene, near Pretoria, and "Notes on a Collection of Birds made in North-east Rhodesia by Dr. F. E. Stoehr," prepared by Dr. Stoehr and Mr. W. L. Selater. The last paper is of considerable interest, as very little work on birds had been previously done in this part of Rhodesia. In the list 249 species are recorded, several of which are not to be found in the South African Catalogue—e. g., *Poliospiza reichardi*, *Macronyx fueleborni*, *Parus insignis*, *Andropadus masukuensis*, *Hyliota barbozæ*, *Lybius macclouni*, and *Agapornis lilianæ*, all species known in Nyasaland. Dr. Stoehr found the White Stork (*Ciconia alba*) nesting near Feira in December—a very singular occurrence. Many interesting notes and notices conclude this excellent number, with which our South African friends have every reason to be satisfied.

39. Kollibay's 'Birds of Silesia.'

[Die Vögel der Preussischen Provinz Schlesien. Von Paul Kollibay. 1 vol. 8vo. Breslau, 1906. 370 pp.]

Herr Paul Kollibay, of Neise, a well-known German ornithologist and a Member of our Union, is the author of this useful Handbook of the birds of the Prussian Province in which he dwells. As no account of the birds of Silesia appears to have been published since the issue of Gloger's 'Schlesiens Wirbeltierfauna' in 1833, it is quite time that a new work on the subject should be prepared; and here we have it, from the pen of a fully competent authority.

Reichenow, in his last list, assigns 405 species to the Avifauna of the German Empire, of which 227 are breeding-birds. Herr Kollibay claims 317 for Silesia, of which

202 species nest more or less regularly within the confines of the Province.

We observe with much interest that Herr Kollibay's volume was fully discussed at the recent Anniversary Meeting of the German Ornithological Society at Breslau (see J. f. O. 1907, p. 167), and that he was rather taken to task for not having used trinomials more freely!

40. *McGregor on Philippine Birds.*

[(1) Notes on Four Birds from Luzon and on a Species of doubtful Occurrence in the Philippines. Notes on Birds from Apo Island. Notes on a Collection of Birds from Banton. Notes on a Collection of Birds from the Island of Tablas. By R. C. McGregor. Philipp. Journ. Sc. i. p. 765.

(2) Notes on a Collection of Birds from Palawán Island. *Id. Op. cit.* p. 903.]

In the seventh and eighth numbers of the first volume of the 'Philippine Journal of Science,' which have lately reached us, Mr. McGregor continues his communications on the birds of the Philippine Archipelago. The contents of the four papers in the first article are sufficiently shown by their titles. The species "of doubtful occurrence" in Luzon is a large Swift, probably of the genus *Chætura*, flocks of which were seen by Mr. Worcester in the north. In Banton, a small island north of Tablas, examples of 21 species were obtained by a native collector sent out by the Bureau of Science. A curious nest of *Lalage niger* was obtained there, and is now figured. It is extremely slight and flat, like that of some Doves.

The second article contains an account of a collection made at Puerto Princes and Tinabog, on the east coast of Palawán, in December 1905 and January and February 1906, which contains "good series of the species (about 80 in all) characteristic of this island." One of them (*Hypotaenidia striata*) is new to the List of the Birds of Palawán.

41. *Marek on the Influence of Wind and Weather on Migration.*

[Einfluss von Wind und Wetter auf den Vogelzug. Von Prof. M. Marek, Vincovci. Separat-Abdruck aus Ornithol. Jahrb. xvii. 1906, Heft. 3-6.]

Professor Marek, in the course of an elaborate paper, discusses the influence of wind and weather on the flight and migration of birds, with the effect of the barometrical maxima and minima upon it. He has spared no pains to examine every detail of the subject, which should be carefully studied by those interested therein, as it is impossible to give a proper idea of so wide a subject in our limited space. We may, however, say that the author considers that the effect produced is most marked and constant.

42. *North on Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds.*

[Nests and Eggs of Birds found breeding in Australia and Tasmania. By Alfred J. North, C.M.Z.S., Ornithologist, Australian Museum. Vol. ii. Part 1. Sydney, 1906*.]

The second volume of Mr. North's work on the nests and eggs of the birds of Australia and Tasmania commences with the Laniidæ, of which two subfamilies—the *Gymnorhininæ* and *Pachycephalinæ*—are well represented in the Australian Subregion. This Part contains also the families *Certhiidæ* and *Sittidæ*, and a considerable portion of the great and characteristic Australian family *Meliphagidæ*. Ample details are furnished of the nesting and eggs of the species of these groups, so far as they are known, and excellent text-figures of many of the birds and nests are given in the letterpress. Besides these, three large-sized plates of nests and two of eggs accompany the Part. The figures of the eggs, which are of the natural size, have been reproduced by the heliotype process at the Government Printing Office from photographs. The execution throughout does great credit to the care and skill of our fellow-workers in Australia.

We regret to see that the recently proposed change of the

* See 'Ibis,' 1905, p. 127.

name "*Sittella*" into "*Neositta*" is followed in this work. It appears to us to be quite unjustifiable (see our remarks, 'Ibis,' 1904, p. 154).

43. Oberholser on a new Humming-bird.

[Description of a new Genus and Species of *Trochilidæ*. By Harry C. Oberholser. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, xviii. p. 162.]

Aeronympha prosantis (gen. et sp. nov.) is based on a single "Bogota" skin in the Field-Columbian Museum at Chicago. The form "seems most nearly to resemble *Zodalia*."

44. Ribeiro on the Birds of the Serra Itatiaya, Brazil.

[Vertebrados do Itatiaya (Peisces, Serpentes, Saurios, Aves e Mamíferos) resultados do Sr. Carlos Mereira, Assistente da Secção de Zoologia do Museu Nacional. Por Alipio de Miranda Ribeiro. Arch. Mus. Nac. do Rio de Janeiro, vol. xiii. (1906).]

Sr. Ribeiro has kindly sent us a copy of his report on the Vertebrates collected by Sr. Mereira on the Serra de Itatiaya, between the provinces of Rio and Minas, which is said to rise to a height of 10,000 feet, and is therefore of much interest. The birds enumerated are 52 in number and are mostly of well-known species. Two, however, are described as new—*Synallaxis mereiræ* and *Musciphaga* (ser. *Muscivora*?) *obsoleta*. The most interesting species is *Scytalopus sylvestris*, which is figured. But is it really *S. sylvestris*? It is more likely to be *S. indigoticus*. *S. sylvestris* is a Peruvian species, which would probably not occur in S.E. Brazil. It would have been better to give the elevation on the Serra at which each species was met with.

45. Ridgway on new Genera of American Birds.

[Descriptions of some new Genera of *Tyrannidæ*, *Pipridæ*, and *Cotingidæ*. By R. Ridgway. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. xviii. p. 207 (1906).]

Mr. Ridgway proposes sixteen new generic terms in the three above-named families:—*Aphanotriccus* (type *Myiobius capitalis*), *Terentotriccus* (*Myiobius fulvicularis*), *Myiotriccus* (*Tyrannula phænicura*), *Atalotriccus* (*Colopterus pilaris*),

Placostomus (*Platyrhynchus superciliosus*), *Cnemarchus* (*Tænioptera erythropygia*), *Orodynastes* (*Tænioptera striaticollis*), *Tyrannopsis* (*Muscicapa sulphurea*), *Tolmarchus* (*Tyrannus taylori*), *Pheotriccus* (*Cnipolegus hudsoni*), *Allocopterus* (*Pipra deliciosa*), *Stictornis* (*Ampelis cinctus*), *Idiotrichus* (*Pogonotriccus zeledoni*), *Elainopsis* (*Elainea elegans*), *Microtriccus* (*Tyrannulus semiflavus*), and *Hylonax* (*Myiarchus validus*).

The first ten of these genera are referred to the Tyrannidæ, *Allocopterus* to the Pipridæ, and the remaining five to the Cotingidæ.

We are not satisfied that all these forms deserve generic rank. For instance, *Pipra deliciosa* is, in our opinion, quite unnecessarily removed from *Machæropterus* (cf. Cat. B. B. M. xiv. p. 305), of which it has the structure in every respect, except that the abnormal characters of the remiges in the adult male are more highly developed. We should certainly not adopt the genus *Allocopterus*.

46. 'Scotia,' Narrative of the Voyage of the.

[The Voyage of the Scotia, being the Record of a Voyage of Exploration in the Antarctic Seas. By Three of the Staff. Blackwood & Sons, 1906. 1 vol. 8vo. 366 pp.]

This journal has been highly favoured by the contribution of the three excellent articles which Mr. Eagle Clarke has written on the collection of birds made by the 'Scotia' in the Antarctic Seas. We are sure that they have been much appreciated by all ornithologists.

We have now before us the narrative of the Scottish Antarctic Expedition, prepared by "Three of the Staff"—Messrs. Rudmose-Brown, Mossman, and Harvey Pirie, and have no doubt that ornithologists will be pleased with this book also, as it contains frequent references to birds and many illustrations of their strange ways in the South Polar Seas. The Penguins are, of course, the prominent group, and are appreciated, not only as a strange form of bird-life, but also for the high value of their flesh. It is even suggested that "it would be well worth while" to establish Penguin-

rookeries on some of the barren islands of Western Scotland, and so to "introduce a new and delicious food to the inhabitants of this country"!

Again we read that the "great event in spring" at the winter-quarters of the Expedition was "the return of the Penguins to their rookeries. That signified surroundings full of life, a never-failing field to naturalists, and last, though almost the most important item, a plentiful supply of eggs and fresh meat." Shags, Petrels, Paddies, and Skuas are also often mentioned; but by far the most prominent feature of bird-life in Antarctica is evidently the Penguin.

The 'Scotia' left the Clyde on November 2nd, 1902, and went first to Port Stanley, in the Falkland Islands. Leaving Port Stanley in January 1903, she made an unsuccessful attempt to get through the Polar Pack, and finally returned to Laurie Island, in the South Orkneys, on March 25th. Here winter-quarters were established for some of the party, under the command of Mr. Mossman and Dr. Pirie; while the 'Scotia' retired to the Falklands and did not return until February 15th, 1904. It was during this period and the subsequent stay of Mr. Mossman and Dr. Pirie in the South Orkneys that the valuable collection was formed upon which Mr. Eagle Clarke based his second paper ('Ibis,' 1906, p. 145). On February 22nd, 1904, the 'Scotia' left Laurie Island on its second cruise southwards, when Coats Land was discovered, though the explorers were unluckily not able to land on it. The birds collected in this part of Antarctica form the subject of Mr. Eagle Clarke's third paper (above, p. 325); while those obtained on Gough Island, which was visited on the way home, form the subject of Mr. Eagle Clarke's first paper ('Ibis,' 1905, p. 247).

It should be always recollected that, although his name does not appear on the titlepage of the present work, Mr. W. S. Bruce was the originator and leader of the Scottish Antarctic Expedition, which, with the financial assistance of two members of the Coats family and other patriotic countrymen, he carried to such a successful termination.

47. *Whitman on the Origin of Species.*

[The Problem of the Origin of Species. By Charles Otis Whitman. Reprinted from 'Congress of Arts and Science, Universal Exposition, St. Louis, 1904,' vol. v.]

Professor Whitman here attempts to reconcile the theory of Natural Selection, as understood by Darwin and Wallace, with those of Orthogenesis or "definitely directed variation as the result of the inheritance of acquired characters," and Mutation or "sudden saltation." He does not consider that they are necessarily contradictory, but thinks that either Orthogenesis or Mutation may originate variation and that Natural Selection may follow thereupon. Variation may be "orderly" as well as "orderless." The writer elucidates his views by means of Pigeons and Doves, in which he considers the connexion between chequered and barred patterns; while he strongly upholds the view—with which we agree—that, where possible, wild forms should be studied in preference to fanciers' varieties, which are seldom more than nominally pure.

XVII.—*Letters, Notes and Extracts.*

WE have received the following letters addressed "To the Editors of 'The Ibis'" :—

SIRS,—I have the pleasure of informing your readers that I have lately obtained for my collection the following rare birds which were captured in this country :—

They are (1) a young example of *Larus leucopterus*, killed in November 1905 on the lagoons near Venice, and constituting the first trustworthy record for Italy; (2) an adult male, in full spring dress, of *Larus ichthyaëtus*, captured on the Isola Vacca (Sardinia), May 6th, 1906. This is the third occurrence of the bird in Italy, and it may be mentioned that the first two specimens obtained were taken by myself at the same spot*. Recently, at the beginning of last December, I received from the neighbourhood of Padua a

* Cf. E. Arrigoni Degli Oddi, *Man. Orn. Ital.* p. 805 (1904).